New Embryonic Stem Cell Lines Avoid Animal Products

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Researchers at Stanford University School of Medicine derived new human embryonic stem cell lines using minimal animal products. Although numerous groups have derived stem cell lines, most were generated in the presence of animal serum and animal-derived feeder cells. These animal products are a concern because they may cause the stem cells to produce an immune response when transplanted into humans and may induce biological changes especially to the genome. In this study, the team characterized six lines that were derived with minimal use of animal products. The researchers verified that the lines behave like normal ES cells in their ability to both self-renew and differentiate to the major cell types. These lines may be useful for future studies that help move the field toward clinical-grade cell therapy.

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Related Information: Stanford Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine Institute, Pera lab page

Tags: Reijo Pera, Creating New Stem Cell Lines, Stanford University, Comprehensive, Kim